

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is listed below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Previously Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing having a separation chamber for separating liquid and contaminants from a stream of air, and a collection chamber for collecting the separated liquid and contaminants,
a floor unit having a suction opening,
a passage between the suction opening and separation chamber,
a suction source for establishing and maintaining the stream of air from the suction opening to the separation chamber,
a controller for stopping the suction source when a level of liquid in the collection chamber rises to a predetermined level, and
a protective structure within the collection chamber and at least partially surrounding at least a portion of the controller.
2. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 1 wherein the controller is a float and a switch.
3. (Previously Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 1 wherein the protective structure is a float guide for constraining a float therein.
4. (Previously Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 3 wherein an upstream wall of the float guide is solid for deflecting the circular movement of the liquid, and a downstream wall of the float guide has an opening for allowing a liquid level in the float guide to rise with the level of liquid in the collection chamber.
5. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 2 wherein the switch is positioned on an outside wall of the collection chamber, and a lever is positioned through an opening in the wall for activating the switch.

6. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 5 wherein the float has a rod for engaging the lever.

7. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 3 wherein the float guide is a tube with openings at a top and bottom thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing having a separation chamber for separating liquid and contaminants from a stream of air, and a collection chamber for collecting the separated liquid and contaminants,

a floor unit having a suction opening,
a passage between the suction opening and separation chamber,
a suction source for establishing and maintaining the stream of air from the suction opening to the separation chamber,

a float arranged to rise when a level of liquid in the collection chamber rises,

a protective structure for constraining [[,]] the float therein and having an upstream wall for ~~defecting~~ deflecting circular movement of the liquid,

a switch positioned on an outside wall of the collection chamber and for stopping the suction source, and

a lever positioned through an opening in the outside wall for activating the switch when the level of liquid rises to a predetermined level.

9. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing having a separation chamber for separating liquid and contaminants from a stream of air, and a collection chamber for collecting the separated liquid and contaminants,

a floor unit having a suction opening,
a passage between the suction opening and separation chamber,
a suction source for establishing and maintaining the stream of air from the suction opening to the separation chamber, and

a structure comprising a cylindrical wall positioned within the separation chamber for defining a path for the stream of air along an internal perimeter of the separation chamber;

further comprising a float arranged to rise when a level of liquid in the collection chamber rises,

a protective structure for constraining the float therein and having an upstream wall for deflecting circular movement of the liquid,

a switch positioned on an outside wall of the collection chamber and arranged for stopping the suction source, and

a lever positioned through an opening in the outside wall for activating the switch when the level of liquid rises to a predetermined level.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 9 wherein an air inlet of the separation chamber defines an inlet path for the stream of air that is tangential to the path along the internal perimeter of the separation chamber.

12. (Original) The vacuum cleaner of claim 11 wherein the air inlet has a restriction for increasing a velocity of the stream of air within the separation chamber.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing having a separation chamber for separating liquid and contaminants from a stream of air, and a collection chamber for collecting the separated liquid and contaminants,

a floor unit having a suction opening,

a passage between the suction opening and separation chamber,

a suction source for establishing and maintaining the stream of air from the suction opening to the separation chamber,

a structure for defining a path for the stream of air along an internal perimeter of the separation chamber,

a controller for stopping the suction source when a level of liquid in the collection chamber rises to a predetermined level, and

a protective structure within the collection chamber and at least partially surrounding at least a portion of the controller.

15. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising
- a housing including a portion for separating liquid and contaminants from a stream of fluid and a portion for collecting the separated liquid and contaminants;
 - a suction opening fluidically connected to the housing;
 - a suction source for establishing and maintaining the stream of fluid from the suction opening to the housing;
 - a controller disposed within the housing for stopping the suction source when a level of liquid in the housing rises to a predetermined level; and,
 - a protective structure at least partially surrounding at least a portion of the controller.

16. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 15 wherein the controller is a float and a switch.

17. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 16 wherein the switch is positioned on an outside wall of the portion for collecting the separated liquids and contaminants, and a lever is positioned through an opening in the wall for activating the switch.

18. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 16 wherein the protective structure is a float guide for constraining a float therein.

19. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 18 wherein an upstream wall of the float guide is solid for deflecting the circular movement of the liquid, and a downstream wall of the float guide has an opening for allowing a liquid level in the float guide to rise with the level of liquid in the portion for collecting the separated liquids and contaminants.

20. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 18 wherein the float guide is a tube with openings at a top and bottom thereof.